

## **Auditions** **Frequently Asked Questions**

*Updated July 25, 2022*

### **How do I sign up for auditions?**

Go to our website at [amherstacts.org/auditions](http://amherstacts.org/auditions) and choose an available audition slot. Signups will be open on August 1, 2022.

### **Where are auditions?**

The Bangs Center, 70 Boltwood Walk, Amherst, MA.

### **When are auditions?**

Audition date and times are:

Friday, September 9 from 6:00 pm to 9:15 pm

Saturday, September 10 from 10:00 am to 12:15 pm and 1:30 pm to 5:45 pm

Sunday, September 11 from 10:00 am to 12:15 pm and 1:30 pm to 5:45 pm

Callbacks will be on Monday, September 12 from 6:00-9:00 pm at the Bangs Center

### **How old do I need to be to audition?**

To be eligible to audition, you must be at least seven years old and must have entered second grade or higher.

### **Do I have to be vaccinated for Covid to audition?**

Amherst Community Theater requires all participants to be vaccinated for Covid. These requirements include cast and crew members, as well as the production team and volunteers.

### **What time should I arrive for my audition?**

Please arrive promptly at your appointed time. Arriving 5 or 10 minutes early is a good idea.

### **What will happen when I arrive?**

You will sign in with the audition volunteers and receive one form to fill out and one information sheet to take home. The forms are also available online at: [amherstacts.org/auditions](http://amherstacts.org/auditions). You are encouraged to download them, fill them out ahead of time, and bring them with you to auditions.

### **What should I bring with me to the audition?**

Bring your completed audition form if you have downloaded it from the website. You can also fill out the form when you arrive. Bring a list of other commitments that might require you to miss a rehearsal between October and January. You will be asked for that information on your audition form. You must inform us of any and all possible conflicts, including vacations, recitals, sports events, other theater group and dance rehearsals and performances etc., even if you are not sure if they will conflict or not. **Casting decisions will not be made without this information, and no absences will be excused in January.**

### **What if I have to cancel my audition at the last minute?**

Send an email to [producer@amherstacts.org](mailto:producer@amherstacts.org) or call Sam at 413-265-8900.

### **Do I have to come prepared with a song to sing at the audition?**

Yes. Please prepare a song for your audition. An accompanist will be available for you to use. No a cappella auditions, please. If you are auditioning for a lead, you are required to sing a song from the show. Below is a list of suggested songs by character. Sheet music for these songs can be found at the Amherst Community Theater website [amherstacts.org/auditions](http://amherstacts.org/auditions). Please sing the measures indicated (ex: m1-m29) and in the given key. Our preference is that you sing a song from the show, but if you choose to

sing a song that is not from the show please bring sheet music in the correct key for the accompanist. Each person auditioning should expect to sing one song, even if they wish to be considered for multiple roles. Some people may be asked to sing more than one song if the director so desires. If multiple songs are listed for callbacks, please prepare all of them.

Note: We hope to create a cast of the best performers possible. We will cast based on skills and chemistry with other actors, not on look, gender, age, race, body type, or anything else. Audition for a part you can perform and do not self-select out because of any preconceived notion of who the part might be for.

What we are looking for at auditions:

- Do you have any spontaneous, creative acting skills?
- Are you willing to take risks?
- How well do you work with others?
- Can you take direction?
- How well do you move?
- Can you learn choreography?
- Can you dance and act at the same time?
- What is your vocal range?
- Can you project your voice?
- Can you learn music?
- Can you sing and act at the same time?

**\*Roles indicated with an asterisk will be flying in this production**

<b>Role (vocal range)</b>	<b>Character Notes</b>	<b>Audition Music Song (measures)</b>	<b>Callbacks (note: you may be asked to sing the regular audition music again at callbacks)</b>
Ariel (Ab3 - Gb5)*	A mermaid and King Triton's youngest daughter. She is obsessed with everything about the human world, and dreams of becoming a part of life above the water. Hard-headed, naive, and emotional, but also kind hearted.	<i>Part of Your World</i> (m55 - end) OR <i>Beyond My Wildest Dreams</i> (m133 - end)	<i>If Only (Quartet)</i> (m86 - end)
Prince Eric (B2 - G4)*	A human monarch who has no interest in taking the crown. A handsome, affable lad with a buoyant, adventurous nature. After Ariel saves his life, he becomes obsessed with finding her and hearing her voice once more.	<i>Her Voice</i> (m70 - end)	<i>If Only (Quartet)</i> (m86 - end)
Ursula (Eb3 - C5)*	The banished Sea Witch and sister of King Triton. Supposedly spurned at childhood, she will use whatever method necessary to steal the kingdom and claim it as her own. Malevolent, calculating, and deceptive.	<i>Poor Unfortunate Souls</i> (m88 - end)	<i>Daddy's Little Angel Reprise</i> (m10 - 39)

King Triton (Ab2 - F4)	King of the Sea and Ariel's father. Beneath his imposing presence and commanding nature lurks a harried single father who will do anything to protect his daughters. The death of his wife has also given him an irrational fear of humans.	<i>If Only, Triton's Lament</i> (whole song)	<i>If Only (Quartet)</i> (m86 - end)
King Triton (Ab2 - F4) Continued			
Flounder (A2 - G4)	A fish and smitten with Ariel, his best friend. Rambunctious but cautious, fearful of the dangers that lurk in and above the water.	<i>She's In Love</i> (m60 - 94)	<i>She's In Love</i> (m107 - m126)
Sebastian (Bb2 - C5)	A crab and advisor to King Triton. A musical virtuoso who is constantly distraught from keeping after Ariel. Despite his paranoia, he can't bring himself to stand in Ariel's way.	<i>Under the Sea</i> (m9 - m40)	<i>If Only (Quartet)</i> (m86 - end)
Scuttle (C3 - G4)*	A disheveled seagull and expert in human artifacts. Loudmouthed, optimistic, and a bit ignorant, despite his supposed expertise.	<i>Positovity</i> (m8 - m39)	Same as regular audition music
Flotsam (E3 - C5) & Jetsam (B2 - A4)	Ursula's lackeys. Oily and spineless Eels, they will say anything you want or need to hear.	<i>Sweet Child</i> (m30 - 51) pick either vocal part. Someone on the audition panel will sing the other part with you.	<i>Daddy's Little Angel Reprise</i> (m13 - 39)
Chef Louis (Bb2 - A4)	The French palace chef, diabolical and violent. A culinary perfectionist with an affinity for blades, seafood in particular.	<i>Les Poissons</i> (m8 - m60)	<i>Les Poissons</i> (m62 - end)
Grimsby (C3 - C4)	Prince Eric's British guardian. Droll, stuffy, and constantly urging Eric towards his royal duties, specifically marriage.	<i>Contest</i> (m2 - m9)	
Sailors, Chefs, Maids, other Ensemble parts	All the humans that live in the world above on land.	<i>Fathoms Below</i> (m1 - m25)	
Mersisters, Princesses	Ariel's singing sisters who double as potential love interests to Prince Eric in the second act.	Use Ariel's songs or another ensemble song	

Sea Creatures, Gulls, other ensemble parts	All the animals that live under or on top of the sea.	<i>Under the Sea</i> (m9 - m40)	
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**\*Roles indicated with an asterisk will be flying in this production**

**Can I sing my audition song as a duet?**

No.

**Do I have to dance at the audition?**

Please be prepared to move and wear proper attire (i.e., no flip-flops).

**Do I have to read from a script at the audition?**

You will be asked to sight read something from the show at auditions. Children may be asked to participate in an acting exercise instead of reading.

**Will I go into the audition room alone or in a group?**

You will be called into auditions as part of a group of about 10 people.

**Must parents accompany children to auditions?**

Parents should accompany their children to help fill out the required forms. Parents are not permitted into the audition room.

**Can I bring my own musical accompaniment (i.e., CD player) to the audition?**

No.

**Can I sing my audition song without piano accompaniment?**

No.

**What should I wear at the audition?**

Wear comfortable clothing and shoes (dance shoes if you have them), such as workout attire. No flip-flops, please.

**How long will the audition last?**

The audition will last a total of one hour and fifteen minutes. The first fifteen minutes will be spent filling out paperwork and getting photographed. You can expect to be in the audition room for approximately one hour.

**Who will be in the audition room?**

The director, musical director, choreographer, producer, and rehearsal stage manager will lead the auditions. There may also be additional support staff in attendance.

**When will I know if I have a callback?**

Callback phone calls will be made in the evening on Sunday, September 11<sup>th</sup>.

**Will there be callbacks for chorus members, or just for lead roles?**

Callbacks will likely be for lead roles only. There may be a callback for major dancers, however.

### **When are callbacks?**

Callbacks will be on Monday, September 12<sup>th</sup> from 6:00-9:00 pm at the Bangs Center.

### **If I don't get a callback, is it possible that I will still be cast in the show?**

Yes. Callbacks are not necessary for all parts.

### **When will I know if I have been cast in the show?**

Everyone who is cast in the show will be notified by phone by Wednesday, September 14<sup>th</sup>. The complete cast list will be posted on the web page by Thursday, September 15<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 PM.

### **If I am not cast in the show, will I get a phone call?**

No, only those who are cast will receive a phone call. Check the web page on Thursday, September 15<sup>th</sup> after 8:00 PM to see the cast list.

### **Will everyone who auditions receive a part in the show?**

Unfortunately, we are not able to offer everyone who auditions a role in this production. Our total cast size will be around 65.

### **When and where is the first rehearsal?**

The first rehearsal will be on **Sunday, October 2<sup>nd</sup> from 12:00 to 5:00 pm** at the Bangs Center.

### **When and where will rehearsals be held?**

Regular rehearsals are scheduled for Wednesdays from 6:00-9:00 pm, Fridays from 6:00-9:00 pm and Sundays from 1:00-5:00 pm. **All rehearsals (except for October 2nd) will be held at the Amherst Regional Middle School unless you are notified otherwise. (Please note that the Sunday, October 2nd rehearsal begins at noon at the Bangs Community Center).** Not all cast members will be called to all rehearsals, but you should remain flexible and available for all scheduled rehearsals as plans do change.

Technical Rehearsals and Dress Rehearsals will be held at Bowker Auditorium at UMass. **These rehearsals are mandatory. The schedule below is tentative and subject to change. Please note that rehearsals often run later than the scheduled end time.**

Wednesday, January 4, 2022 from 5:30 pm to 10:00 pm (Required Bowker Orientation and Rehearsal)

Friday, January 6, 2022 from 6:00 pm to 10:00 pm (Full Cast Rehearsal)

Sunday, January 8, 2023 from 1:00pm to 5:00 pm (Costume Parade and Rehearsal)

Monday, January 9, 2023 from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm (Flying Rehearsal)

Tuesday, January 10, 2023 from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm (Flying Rehearsal)

Wednesday, January 11, 2023 from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm (Full Cast Rehearsal with Flying)

Friday, January 13, 2023 from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm (Full Cast Rehearsal with Flying)

Saturday, January 14, 2023 from 12:00 pm to 10 pm (with 45 minute dinner) (Dry Tech)

Sunday, January 15, 2023 from 12:00 pm to 10 pm (with 45 minute dinner) (Wet Tech)

Tuesday, January 17, 2023 6pm - ? Dress Rehearsal 1

Wednesday, January 18, 2023 6pm - ? Dress Rehearsal 2

### **What are the dates of the performances?**

Thursday, January 19, 2023 at 7:30 pm

Friday, January 20, 2023 at 7:30 pm

Saturday, January 21, 2023 at 1:00 pm (matinee)

Sunday, January 22, 2023 at 1:00 pm (matinee)

Thursday, January 26, 2023 at 7:30 pm

Friday, January 27, 2023 at 7:30 pm  
Saturday, January 28, 2023 at 1:00 pm (matinee)  
Saturday, January 28, 2023 at 7:30 pm  
Sunday, January 29, 2023 at 1:00 pm (matinee)

### **Possible Snow Dates**

Saturday, January 21, 2022 at 7:30pm  
Wednesday January 25, 2022 at 7:30pm  
Sunday, January 29, 2022 at 7:30pm  
Monday, January 30, 2022 at 7:30pm

### **What if I have to miss some of the performances?**

All cast members are **required** to participate in all performances.

### **How much does it cost to be in the show?**

Our standard registration fee is \$80 for each cast member.

If the fee poses a hardship for your family, we encourage you to pay what you can. If you are able to pay a higher fee, please do so to help us support families with less ability to pay. No family will be turned away from casting because of inability to pay the fee.

This fee entitles each cast member to two complimentary tickets to the show. Comp tickets will be for Thursday or Friday shows only. Cast members must contact Amherst Recreation directly by phone or in person to reserve their comp tickets. Tickets sell fast so reserve your comps early!

### **Will I be expected to help with costumes, set building, and/or other tasks during the show?**

All cast members are required to help with tasks in the months prior to the show and during the course of the production. These tasks can be done by the cast member or by a family member or friend. Details of these mandatory support activities can be found in the *Important Information and Dates* document, available at [amherstacts.org/auditions](http://amherstacts.org/auditions).

### **Why are there mandatory show support activities for cast members and families?**

A typical Amherst Community Theater production requires hundreds and hundreds of hours of labor. Much of this time is donated by the production team and non-cast volunteers in our community, but our extraordinary shows would not be possible without the work of cast members and their families. In order to coordinate our efforts and ensure a high level of support, we expect a minimum of 8 hours of pre-show donated time per cast member in November and December. The pre-show time may be spent in the costume shop or the set shop and may be performed by the cast member, a family member, or a friend. We also ask that a family member or friend provide support work during two performances in January. A list of all the ways to help during a performance can be found on the *Important Information and Dates* document. (This can be found at [amherstacts.org/auditions](http://amherstacts.org/auditions)). We believe that you will find working with Amherst Community Theater to be a fun, rewarding, and amazing experience. We can't wait to get started!

### **What parts will be available, and for what age groups?**

The total cast will be composed of about 65 actors & actresses. All roles are available and to all age groups. There are no pre-cast roles.